

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT



REC'D 06 APR 2004

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 153615/CLKR	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/NO 03/00001	International filing date (day/month/year) 06.01.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 04.01.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A47C1/032		
Applicant STOKKE GRUPPEN AS et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  12.07.2003	Date of completion of this report  05.04.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer  MacCormick, D  Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7959  

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/NO 03/00001**

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-13 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-12 filed with telefax on 10.03.2004

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/13-13/13 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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International application No. **PCT/NO 03/00001**

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	2-12
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/NO03/00001

Reference is made to the following document: **D1: US-A-5080435**

**Re Item V**

The present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33 (2) PCT, because the subject matter of claim 1 is not new in respect of the prior art as defined in the regulations (Rule 64(1) - 64 (3) PCT).

**D1** as the closest prior art discloses: a mobile joint for a seating construction for mounting between a seat device (12) and a support (10) for said seat device, comprising at least two joint elements (16, 28) which may pivot reciprocally to a limited degree between two extreme positions in order to allow tilting movement of the seat device effected by the user's weight, wherein it contains a first joint element (16) mounted (at 20) in a first end to the support (10, on arm 18), and in a second end only mounted pivotally to a first end (22) of a middle joint element (24) in a first rotational axis (at 22), and further containing a second joint element (28) mounted in a first end (30) to the seat device (12), and in a second end only mounted pivotally to a second end (26) of the middle joint element (24) in a second rotational axis (at 26), wherein the said rotational axes (22 and 26) are horizontally displaced in relation to each other, and whereby the joint may assume a stable tiltable position between the two extreme positions (see column 1, lines 38-40 and 59-61).

All the features of claim 1 are therefore disclosed.

Having regard to the dependant claims, the applicant is drawn to the fact that the features of these claims are either known from the documents cited in the Search Report for the same purpose as in your application, are generally known to a person skilled in the art, and therefore do not add inventive step to the claims from which they depend.

## P a t e n t   c l a i m s

(Amended 10 March 2004)

1. A mobile joint (1) for a seating construction,  
especially a chair, for mounting between a seat device  
5 (100) of a seating construction and a support (200) for  
said seat device (100), comprising at least two joint  
elements (10,30) which may pivot reciprocally to a limited  
degree between two extreme positions in order to allow  
tilting movement of the seat device (100), effected by the  
10 user's weight displacement,  
characterised in that it contains a first joint element  
(10) mounted in a first end to the support (100) and in a  
second end only mounted pivotal to a first end of a middle  
joint element (20) in a first rotational axis (40), and  
15 further containing a second joint element (30) mounted in a  
first end to the seat device (200) and in the second end  
only mounted pivotal to a second end of the middle joint  
element (20) in a second rotational axis (50), wherein the  
said rotational axes (40, 50) are horizontally displaced in  
20 relation to each other, and whereby the joint (1) may  
assume a stable tilted position between the two extreme  
positions.

2. A mobile joint (1) according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the middle joint element (20)  
25 consists of a number of joint sub-elements, wherein the  
mobile joint (1) may take a number of additional stable  
tilted positions between the two extreme positions.

3. A mobile joint (1) according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the horizontal distance between the  
30 rotational axes (40, 50) is about 5-15 cm.

4. A mobile joint (1) according to claim 3,  
characterised in that the horizontal distance between the  
rotational axes (40, 50) is about 6-10 cm.

5. A mobile joint (1) according to one of the claims 1-4, characterised in that the tilted positions are restricted by reciprocally cooperating fitting surfaces (12, 21; 14, 23; 33, 22; 35, 26) between the joints.
- 5 6. A mobile joint (1) according to claim 5, characterised in that one or both of the cooperating fitting surfaces (12, 21; 14, 23; 33, 22; 35, 26) are equipped with rotational stoppers (13, 24, 34, 36).
- 10 7. A mobile joint (1) according to one of the claims 1-6, characterised in that at least two of the joint elements (10, 20, 30) are spring-loaded in relation to each other.
- 15 8. A mobile joint (1) according to claim 7, characterised in that the spring-load is obtained by a torsion spring, a spring coil, a plate spring or other elastic material, preferably a torsion spring.
9. A mobile joint (1) according to one of the claims 7-8, characterised in that the spring-load is adjustable.
- 20 10. A mobile joint (1) according to one of the claims 7-9, characterised in that the said first and second joint elements (10, 30) have different spring-loads in relation to the middle joint element (20).
- 25 11. A mobile joint (1) according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that at least two joint elements (10, 20, 30) may be locked in relation to each other.
- 30 12. A chair comprising a seat device (100), a base (200) and a mobile joint (1) connecting the seat device (100) with the basis (200), characterised in that the mobile joint (1) is designed according to one of the preceding claims.